Scrap Committee under Ministry of Steel has indicated that there is no noticeable impact on terrestrial flora and fauna.

Non-Functioning of Relay Centre

269. SHRI N.N. KRISHAN DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the non-functioning of Doordarshan Relay Centres at Attappady, Agali and Palghat in Kerala;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make functional these Relay Centres ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) While the existing Low Power TV Centre at Palghat in Kerala is reported to be functioning satisfactorily, the one at Attapadi which is located in Agali Suburb of Palghat district was commissioned on 31.3.97 pending staff sanction. The transmitter is presently being run by deployment of staff, on tour, from elsewhere in Doordarshan network thereby providing only part transmission. Full time tramsmission from the Low Power TV Transmitter would depend upon availability of staff sanction for operation and maintenance of the project.

[Translation]

Ban on Vulgar Films

270. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about declining standard of DD programmes during the last two years;

(b) if so, the detilas thereof;

(c) the remedial measures taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government propose to impose ban on the telecast of vulgar films and other such programmes on DD;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) Complaints/ suggestions about the quality of programmes telecast on Doordarshan are received regularly from the viewers. No centralised record of such complaints/suggestions is maintained in Doordarshan. However, Doordarshan constantly strives to bring about a qualitative improvement in its programmes in order to sustain the interest of the viewers.

(d) Doordarshan previews all its programmes including films before their telecast in order to ensure that they are suitable for family viewing. Moreover, only those films which are certified by the Central Board of Film Certification for universal screening are considered for telecast on Doordarshan.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Introduction of Dhaka-Calcutta Express Train

271. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Dhakâ-Calcutta Express train; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortage of Drinking Water in Assam

272. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total requirement of drinking water in Assam;

(b) the total shortage in its supply at present;

(c) the steps being taken to improve the situation;

(d) whether the World Bank has provided any special assistance for improving the drinking water supply in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) As per the norm of 40 Ltrs. per person per day the total requirement of drinking water for the rural population (1991 Census) in Assam is 7970.60 lakh litres per day.

(b) As on 1.4.1997 there were 10115 'Not Covered'

and 36809 'Partially Covered' habitation in Assam.

(c) The State Government has prepared an Action Plan to provide safe drinking water to the remaining habitations during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Allotment of Land

273. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3162 dated 18.12.1995 regarding allotment of land and state :

(a) whether the infomation has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/ proposed to be taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) One Man Inquiry Committee headed by Shri R.M. Vatsa, I.A.S. (Retd.) was constituted on 10.12.1994. The Inquiry Officer resigned without submitting any report. So far, no case of sale/transfer has been reported to the authorities. However, there may have been Benami transactions of such lands. As the house sites are allotted at a very nominal lease rent for nine years only and also without realising cost of the land to the weaker sections of the society who do not own any house, by allowing them to transfer or sell these plots, the Government do not want them to be houseless again. Therefore, the permission to sell/transfer is not granted.

[Translation]

Hydel Projects of Bihar

274. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the hydel projects of north Chhotanagpur of Bihar included in Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount likely to be spent on the said projects and the time by which the works of the said projects are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The details of hydel power projects under construction in Chhotanagpur belt of Bihar and proposed for inclusion in 9th Five Year Plan are as follows :

Sl. No.	Name of Projects/ Capacity (MW)	Expenditure upto 3/97	Latest cost	Commissioning Target
1.	North Koel (24) (Palamu Distt.)	35.99	47.34	1998-99
2.	Chandil LBC (8) (Singh Bhum Distt.)	17.89	32.49	1998-99

[English]

Hiring of Private Producers by Doordarshan

275. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whther Doordarshan plans to commission private producers for making news capsules for its news bulletins; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

N.T.P.C.

276. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :
SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "fresh row over NTPC simhadri plant" appearing in the 'News Time' dated 12 June, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the case; and

(c) the progress made in the construction of proposed power plant in Visakhapatnam ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Union Government has since accorded investment approval for setting up of this project.

(c) Measures for land acquisition for the main plant area of the project have been initiated.